



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

'08 MJ 8524

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) Magistrate Case No.:
)
 Plaintiff,) COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF
)
 v.) 21 U.S.C. § 952 and 960
) Importation of a Controlled
 Jesus Manuel BOTELLO-Ramos (1),) Substance (Felony)
 Maribel MEJIA (2),)
)
 Defendants.)
)

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

That on or about June 9, 2008 within the Southern District of California, defendants Jesus Manuel BOTELLO-Ramos and Maribel MEJIA, did knowingly and intentionally import approximately 10.94 kilograms (24.06 pounds) of Methamphetamine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance, into the United States from a place outside thereof, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 952 and 960.

The complainant states that this complaint is based on the attached Statement of Facts incorporated herein by reference.

Special Agent
U. S. Immigration & Customs
Enforcement

SWORN TO BEFORE ME AND SUBSCRIBED IN MY PRESENCE, THIS 10th DAY
OF JUNE 2008.

PETER C. LEWIS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 v.
3 Jesus Manuel BOTELLO-Ramos
4 Maribel MEJIA

5 STATEMENT OF FACTS

6 This complaint is based on the reports, documents, and notes
7 furnished to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent
8 Enrique Torregrosa.

9 On June 9, 2008, at approximately 2015 hours, Jesus Manuel
10 BOTELLO-Ramos entered the United States from the Republic of Mexico
11 via the Calexico, California East Port of Entry. BOTELLO made
12 entry driving a 2003 Chevrolet Impala bearing no plates and VIN
13 number 2G1WF55E239256752. BOTELLO was the driver and registered of
14 the vehicle. BOTELLO was accompanied by his wife, Maribel MEJIA,
15 and their minor daughter.

16 At primary inspection, BOTELLO gave a negative oral Customs
17 declaration to Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO)
18 Nevarez. CBPO Nevarez asked BOTELLO where he was going. BOTELLO
19 stated he was going home to Imperial, California. CBPO Nevarez
20 asked about the vehicle BOTELLO was driving. BOTELLO stated that he
21 owned the vehicle for about eight months. CBPO Nevarez conducted a
22 cursory primary inspection of the vehicle and noticed a strong odor
23 of air freshener emanating as she opened the trunk. CBPO Nevarez
24 referred BOTELLO, his passengers, and the vehicle to the Vehicle
25 Secondary Lot for further inspection.

26 At the secondary area, CBPO C. Martinez obtained a negative
27 customs declaration from BOTELLO and asked him about his trip to
28 Mexico. BOTELLO stated they had been in Mexicali for about three
hours visiting the little girl's grandmother.

1 CBPO Martinez noticed that the gas tank of the vehicle sounded
2 solid when tapped and requested CBP Canine Enforcement Officer
3 (CEO) Ragsdale to screen the vehicle utilizing his Human/Narcotic
4 Detector Dog (HNDD). CEO Ragsdale screened the vehicle with his
5 assigned HNDD. CEO Ragsdale noticed the HNDD alerted to the
6 vehicle's rear area.

7 A subsequent search of the vehicle by CBPO Martinez revealed
8 fourteen packages with a combined weight of 10.94 kilograms (24.06
9 pounds) of methamphetamine, concealed within the gas tank of the
10 vehicle. CBPO Martinez probed one package, producing a crystal
11 crunchy like substance, which field-tested positive for
12 methamphetamine.

13 BOTELLO and MEJIA were arrested for importation of
14 methamphetamine into the United States. BOTELLO and MEJIA were
15 advised of their rights, per Miranda.

16 MEJIA acknowledged and waived her rights agreeing to answer
17 questions without the presence of an attorney. MEJIA denied any
18 knowledge of the methamphetamine in the vehicle. MEJIA stated they
19 went to Mexicali to visit her sick grandfather. MEJIA stated that
20 BOTELLO left her at her grandfather's residence while he went to
21 get the vehicle washed.

22 BOTELLO and MEJIA were processed and transported to Imperial
23 County Jail to await their initial appearance before a U.S.
24 Magistrate Judge.

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